

At 6 p.m. on October 11, 2007, Lt. Marc Tunstall and Ensign Jason Evans, pilot and co-pilot of a Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter found the downed F/A-18 Hornet nearly 80 miles off Cape Henry, Virginia. Rescue swimmer Petty Officer 2nd Class Mike Ackermann was dispatched to retrieve the pilot from the ocean, whereupon the rescued pilot was hoisted in the helicopter by flight mechanic Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven Acuna. The rescued pilot was transported to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital where he is in stable condition, with only minor injuries from the crash.

Madam Speaker, this successful rescue is one of nearly 360 search and rescue missions executed every year by the men and women of Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City. In the last 60 years, the Air Station has rescued or assisted over 10,000 people. I am proud that Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City is located in my district, and more proud of the exemplary work and bravery exhibited by the men and women who save hundreds of lives each year. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the commendable work of Lt. Tunstall, Ensign Evans, Petty Officer 2nd Class Ackermann and Petty Officer 3rd Class Acuna.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
HOUSE REGARDING WITH-
HOLDING OF INFORMATION RE-
LATING TO CORRUPTION IN IRAQ

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, five years ago today, President George W. Bush signed into law the "Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq," H.J. Res. 114.

In the House, the bill passed on October 10, 2002, by a vote of 296–133. I was one of 126 Democrats who voted against this grossly misguided bill, concluding that further diplomacy was needed over a U.S. military strike.

And today—I remain unyielding in my stance that diplomacy, rather than military action is the answer to creating political reconciliation in Iraq.

We must implement a diplomatic strategy that is framed upon the doorway of the U.N. and hinges on the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, U.S. allies and the will of the Iraqi people.

Mr. Speaker, as the Iraq Study Group concluded, a diplomatic strategy of gaining multi-lateral and bilateral support throughout the international community, especially with Iraq's neighboring states will help marginalize extremists and terrorists, promote U.S. values and interests, and improve America's global image.

Unfortunately, to date, the President's new strategy is not a new strategy at all and continues the same failed plan that was utilized prior to the surge. His failed plan has resulted in over 3,800 U.S. soldiers being killed and over 27,000 American soldiers being wounded.

Additionally, at least 150,000 of our service members have been victims of concussions,

many of whom will suffer from life long injuries that have no medical or technological resolutions—including blindness, deafness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. In the great State of Maryland alone, we continue to mourn the deaths of 70 service members and our prayers go out to over 392 brave men and women in uniform who suffer from wounds gained on the battlefield of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, as we look back over the last five years we can only point to meager accomplishments while the overwhelming factor that shatters the forefront of our memory is the onslaught of bloodshed, further internal and external displacement of the Iraqi people, further corruption of the Iraqi government and further strained relations in the Middle East due in large part to the President's stubborn course of military operations in Iraq.

In fact, corruption within the Iraqi government is as bad as ever and has become what has been described by Stuart Bowen, the U.S. State Department's Special Inspector for Reconstruction in Iraq as a 'second insurgency' threatening to undermine U.S. and Iraqi efforts to build a stable democracy. As concluded by the Iraqi Commission for Public Integrity, corruption cases have increased by a staggering 70 percent in the last year, despite the Administration's efforts to quell these concerns by layering them in bureaucratic red tape and retroactively labeling unwarranted information as being classified.

As such, I congratulate my colleagues on passing H. Res. 734, which is a step in the right direction. Specifically, this legislation sends a strong message to the Administration that anti-democratic practices will not be tolerated. It also sends a message to the Iraqi Government that the U.S. Government will not sit idly by as Americans continue to sacrifice their lives at the expense of sustaining a mismanaged Iraqi Government.

Considering the ongoing corruption in Iraq, it is clear that our military can not do what should be the job of ambassadors, foreign dignitaries and heads of state.

As we look to the future, I hope that the Administration will shift from these failed policies in Iraq to a new policy that is fundamentally diplomatic and weighs heavily on the assistance of the international community.

We owe this to our brave soldiers, their families and friends, the American people, and to the people of Iraq.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE PIERCE
FROST

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Riverside, California has been exceptional. The Riverside educational community has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent for the betterment of our children. Maxine Frost is one of these individuals. On December 8, 2007, Maxine will be honored at a retirement dinner after serving 40 years as a

member of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education.

Mrs. Maxine Frost graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in history and has been a resident and active member of the Riverside community since 1958. Mrs. Frost's interest in education began with her involvement in the education of her children. She was an active mother who served on various school committees. In 1967, the President of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education selected Maxine to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education. During her tenure, Mrs. Frost witnessed history including the desegregation of the Riverside school district. Maxine went on to serve on the California School Boards Association and in 1981 she was elected President of the organization.

During her tenure on the Board, Maxine has been elected by her fellow board members to serve as board president, vice-president and clerk. One of Maxine's many success stories is the creation and development of the AVID program: Achievement Via Individual Determination. AVID offers average students the opportunity to take college prep classes while teaching them study techniques and teamwork.

Mrs. Frost's involvement in the community is not limited to education; she has also dedicated her time to many other organizations that improve our quality of life including the Riverside Art Alliance, Junior League of Riverside, League of Women Voters and the National Charity League. One reflection of Maxine's many contributions to the community are the countless awards and honors she has received over the years. Recently the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education voted to name a school after Maxine, a vote which required the Board to make an exception to its policy which requires that a person be deceased for two years before a facility can be designated.

Mrs. Maxine Frost's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. She has been the heart and soul of the Riverside Unified School District Board of Education and many other community organizations. I am proud to call Maxine a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she retires.

INDIA IS A DEFICIENT
DEMOCRACY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I was extremely disappointed today to see the Human Rights Watch had to issue a statement calling on the Government of India to finally take concrete steps to hold accountable members of its security forces who killed, "disappeared," and tortured thousands of Sikhs during its military campaign in the Punjab. I was disappointed because India should already be doing this. I was disappointed because this call to action is simply further proof that India—which prides itself on being the